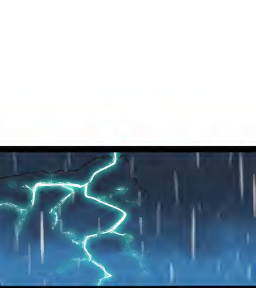




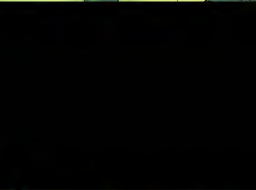
BY JOSH ULRICH













GASP!









YOU
THINK WE'RE
GOING TO TRUST
YOU AFTER WHAT YOU
PULLED HERE?





I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
YOUR NAME!



A GOOD
POINT! I DON'T
EITHER!

MY
CODE
NAME IS
FRENCHMAN.
THAT'S ALL
YOU NEED
TO KNOW.



A comic panel featuring a man and a woman. The man, on the right, has brown hair and a beard, wearing a purple shirt. He has a wide-eyed, surprised expression. The woman, on the left, has long black hair and is wearing a purple top. She also has a surprised expression. A speech bubble from the man says, "DID YOU HEAR THAT? THAT'S ALL WE NEED TO KNOW." Another speech bubble from the woman at the bottom says, "HOW".

DID
YOU HEAR
THAT? THAT'S
ALL WE NEED
TO KNOW.

HOW

REASSURING



A comic book panel featuring two characters in a tense conversation. On the left, a man with a purple blindfold and a dark jacket is shown in profile, looking towards the right. On the right, a woman with long black hair and a purple scarf is looking back at him with a determined expression. Three speech bubbles are present: one from the man at the top, one from the woman in the middle, and a larger one from the man at the bottom.

YOU CAN
CONTINUE
TO HATE ME
ALL YOU
LIKE---

WE
WILL.

BUT
YOU CAN
NOT KEEP
JACKIE SAFE
ON YOUR
OWN.



AND
YOU
CAN?

WE CAN
KEEP BLACKBURN
AT BAY AT THE
COMPOUND, UNTIL
JACKIE IS READY
TO FACE HER.

JACKIE
WONT BE
FACING BLACKBURN
AGAIN! GET THAT
THROUGH YOUR
THICK SKULL!





YES,
I WILL.

I'M
SORRY,
JACKIE, DID
WE WAKE
YOU
UP?

HE'S
RIGHT. I'M
CONNECTED TO
BLACKBURN, AND
THERE IS NO
DENYING IT.

A comic book panel featuring two female characters in conversation. The character on the left has long, dark hair with blue streaks and a surprised expression. The character on the right has short, reddish-brown hair and is speaking. A speech bubble from the character on the right contains the text. Another speech bubble from the character on the left is partially visible at the bottom.

JACKIE,
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO LISTEN
TO HIM, HE'S
MANIPULATING
YOU.

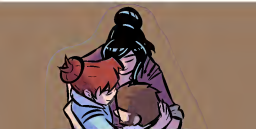
IT HAS
NOTHING TO
DO WITH HIM. I'VE
KNOWN FOR A LONG
TIME NOW. I CAN'T
RUN FROM THIS.

WE'LL
TALK IT OVER
TOGETHER, OKAY.
WE DON'T HAVE
TO RUSH INTO
ANYTHING.

AND IF
YOU WANT ME
TO SHOOT CODE
NAME FRENCHMAN
OVER THERE, I WILL
DEFINITELY DO THAT
FOR YOU, SWEETIE.











WELCOME
TO YOUR FIRST DAY
OF TRAINING.

IF YOU
WISH TO
SURVIVE YOUR
NEXT ENCOUNTER
WITH BLACKBURN,
I SUGGEST YOU
TAKE IT
SERIOUSLY.



SERIOUSLY?

THAT'S
WHAT I
SAID.



NO, I
MEAN YOU'RE
BLIND... AND
THESE ARE REAL
SWORDS. YOU
SERIOUSLY
WANT TO DO
THIS?



ALREADY
UNDERESTIMATING
YOUR OPPONENT, THIS
TRAINING IS NOT OFF TO
A GOOD START

A GOOD START,
JACKIE.

I'M JUST
SAYING. I'M NOT
GOING TO FEEL GOOD
IF I STAB A BLIND
MAN.



YOU
MIGHT BY
THE TIME WE'RE
DONE.



